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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

WATCHET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

The Seaport of Watchet, situated on the Bristol Channel, faces nearly due north, and is bounded on the south, west, and east, by a low chain of hills. It has an equable climate, mild yet bracing, and with a smaller rainfall than its neighbours.

It is a residential, manufacturing, and seafaring town.

The chief industry is the making of paper, which employs a large portion of the industrial inhabitants.

A number of foreign boats, bringing Wood pulp from northern ports, and Esparto Grass from African ports, enter the port annually.

The health of the town remains exceedingly good. There were only two cases of notifiable infectious disease, which is about one per thousand inhabitants. One being Tuberculosis of lungs, and one Diptheria.

The total number of deaths for the year was 31.
The total number of births was 33.

Of children of under a year old there was one death.

The health services consists of, one part time medical officer, and one part time Sanitary officer.

The Council subsidises the Isolation Hospital at Minehead, to which cases of infectious diseases may be sent.

Cases of the major infectious diseases, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus, Small Pox, and Plague, can be sent to the County Isolation Hospital.

Berths for ships carrying infectious disease have been arranged, The berth for the major diseases in the bay, and those for minor infections in the middle of the harbour.

The hospitals at Minehead and Taunton are available for emergencies in the town.

The St.Johns Ambulance is available for the transport of all but infectious cases. The Isolation Hospital having their own Ambulance.

Tuberculosis is treated at the Minehead Clinic or the County Sanatoria.

There are Clinics at Minehead and Taunton for Venerial Disease.

Laboratory work is carried out at the County Laboratory at Taunton.

There are two resident district nurses.

The water supply has been adequate and satisfactory.

The refuse of the town is conveyed by means of a sanitary cart to an incinerator.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the new year

(1)	With state assistance	
(A)	By the local authority ...	Nil.
(B)	By other bodies or persons ...	Nil.
(11)	Otherwise ...	30.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

(1)	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects. ...	80.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	80.
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under subhead (1)) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations,1925	80.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	80.
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding subhead found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	Nil.

HOUSING ACTION.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	15.

Action under statutory powers during the year.

A. Proceeding under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 15.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices
(a) By owners ... 15.
(b) By local authority, in default of owners Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 15.

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ...

(a) By owners ... 15.
(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Section 19 and 21. of the Housing Act of 1930.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... Nil.

HOUSING ACT 1935 - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year ... One
(2) Number of families living therein One
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 7½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil.

(c) (1) Number of cases relieved during the year Nil.
(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.

D. Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of producers on the register ... 5.
Number of distributors on the register, divided as follows:-
(a) Distributors only ... 6.
(b) " who are also producers 3.

Number of licences given to graded milk distributors. 1.

Hopkins - Collins Bros

MEAT SUPERVISION.

No meat was condemned during the year.

The number of Slaughter houses. Licensed - 1
Registered- 2

Total 3.

MIN. OF HEALTH
10 JUL 1937
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WATCHET U.D.C.

Copy/

R E P O R T

of Medical Officer of
Health for the year
ended 31st December, 1936.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

F.P.Risdon,
Watchet.